THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan telecasts two type of films, *viz.* commercial and award winning films. As far as commercial films are concerned, the normal practice has been to telecast these on a sponsorship basis, with the films being supplied on a minimum guarantee, ensured by a party, selected through a tender process. Currently, Doordarshan is acquiring these commercial films on royalty basis through NFDC and marketing these on their own. Regarding Award winning films, Prasar Bharati has informed that due to resource constraint, it has been decided to telecast award winning films of various languages, which have won only Swarn Kamal and Rajat Kamal awards, on National Network. For the award winning films in regional languages which have not won Swarn Kamal and Rajat Kamal but may have won other awards of State Governments, the new scheme envisages to telecast them on regional language satellite channels, subject to availability of funds.

DTH Licence to ASC Enterprises Ltd.

595. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Set Top Box (STB) provided as Dish TV, a Unit of ASC Enterprises Limited is inter-operable and in compliance with the specification laid down by Government through Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); and

(b) if not, the reasons for not canceling DTH licence to ASC Enterprises Limited and imposing a penaly of Rs. 50 crore as provided in the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The matter is under examination in this Ministry.

Electoral Reforms

†596. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make certain changes and amendments in election system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the specific proposals in this regard; and

(c) whether any changes in election system, especially with regard to selection of candidates by the political parties, is also under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2001, passed by the Rajya Sabha on 8-4-2003 and by the Lok Sabha on 18-8-2003, assented to by the President on 28-8-2003 as the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2003, has provided for introducing open ballot system in place of the existing secret ballot system in elections to the Council of States and for doing away with the requirement of residence of a particular State for contesting these elections from the State. An all party meeting was thereafter convened on 29-10-2003 to, *inter alia,* discuss the proposed scheme of open ballot with a view to incorporating suitable provisions in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 to authorize the political parties (either through the concerned candidates or election agents otherwise) to inspect ballot papers of their respective members while being put in the ballot boxes and also within the specified period after the counting is over. Based on the consensus arrived in the meeting, the draft rules have been prepared and have been forwarded to Election Commission of India for its comments/views.

(c) No, Sir.

Exclusion of MPs from the list of public servants

597. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to bring forward a legislation to exclude Members of Parliament from the list of public servants whose conduct can be probed into by vigilance agencies in corruption cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any alternative agency is likely to be put in place for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?